

The Bumbling Works

The hands
in the bumbling works
are mostly thumbs;

the location
is less central
than originally believed;

the raw materials
are indeterminate;

the power supply
is unreliable;

the tooling
has never been completely modernized
and is much older than previously indicated;

ungoverned
machines depress the safety record;

the ventilation is destructive,
the heating uncontrolled,
the cooling spotty;

the overloaded drains
are odorous;

the decoration
is antiquated;

recruiting is nonvoluntary,
advancement accidental,
retirement forced;

it is remarkable that resignations
are not more frequent,
that the breakages get patched,
that the bumbling works.

--William Newberry